

## Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 IO-10 PC-01 NEAE-00 /070 W

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R 221450Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6454

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CLACUTTA

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 1041

E. O. 11652: NGDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, PK

SUBJECT: KASHMIR AGREEMENT REPORTEDLY IMMINENT

1. AFTER A ROUND OF TALKS IN NEW DELHI LAST WEEK BETWEEN SHEIKH ABDULLA, MRS. GANDHI AND THEIR PRINCIPAL ADVISERS, AN AGREEMENT ON BRINGING THE SHEIKH BACK INTO KASHMIR POLITICAL LIFE AND REVISING SOMEWHAT THE POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF JAMMU-KASHMIR MAY BE IMMINENT. DRAFT LETTERS AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN PREPARED. THE SHEIKH TOLD ONE JOURNALIST THAT AN AGREEMENT IS "PROBABLE," WHICH IS A CHANGE FROM THE TERM "POSSIBLE" HE USED A FEW MONTHS AGO. HE HAS GONE OFF TO KASHMIR TO TEST THE ATMOSPHERE ONE LAST TIME.

2. THE AGREEMENT WOULD APPARENTLY GIVE SHEIKH ABDULLAH THE TRAPPINGS OF SOME MOVEMENT BACK TO THE PRE-1953

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STATUS OF KASHMIR (E. G. HE WOULD CALL HIMSELF WAZIR-E-

AZAM WITHIN THE STATE), BUT THE SUBSTANCE OF THE STATE'S RELATIONSHIP WITH INDIA WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED. THE SHEIKH WOULD TAKE OVER AS CHIEF MINISTER AND HIS POLITICAL ORGANIZATION WOULD FIGHT THE NEXT ELECTION IN COALITION WITH THE CONGRESS. THERE IS APVFN  
NTLY STILL  
DISAGREEMENT ON SOME IMPORTANT POINTS, HOWEVER. THE GOI INSISTS ON ITS RIGHT TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY IN THE STATE AND TAKE CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT. (MRS. GANDHI, ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, IS WILLING TO WRITE A LETTER ASSURING THE SHEIKH THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ONLY ACT IN THE CASE OF A DIRE EXTERNAL THREAT.) ALSO, THE GOI INSISTS ON RETAINING AUTHORITY OF THE SUPREME COURT AND ELECTION COMMISSION IN THE STATE.

3. IF THE SHEIKH ACCEPTS THE GOI'S POSITION ON THESE POINTS AND AGREEMENT  
IS REACHED, BOTH SIDES WILL HAVE  
TO TAKE CARE THAT THEY DON'T ALIENATE THE OTHER BY CLAIMING "COMPLETE VICTORY." ALREADY, THE SHEIKH HAS OBJECTED TO THE GOI ABOUT PRESS REPORTS THAT HE HAS GIVEN UP HIS DEMAND FOR A RETURN TO THE PRE-1947 STATUS, SUCH REPORTS PROVIDE AMMUNITION FOR HIS OPPONENTS WITHIN KASHMIR.

4. WE DON'T KNOW WHETHER OR NOT THE SHEIKH WILL SIGN AFTER HE RETURNS FROM KASHMIR IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. HE HAS ALREADY REPORTEDLY BEEN CLOSE TO AN AGREEMENT TWICE IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS ONLY TO BACK AWAY AND

LATER RETURN TO THE NEGOTIATION TABLE. RS. GANDHI IS REPORTEDLY TELLING  
THE SHEIKH THAT IT'S NOW OR NEVER --  
SHE NEEDS AN AGREEMENT WELL BEFORE AN ELECTION, AND SHE CAN'T COMMIT HERSELF TO NEGOTIATIONS AFTER AN ELECTION.  
SCHNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

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